

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis of a hip able to allow the articulation of a femur (11) in a corresponding acetabular seating (13) and comprising at least a femoral head (12) of a hemispherical shape able to be inserted into said acetabular seating (13), and pin means (18) able to be engaged and clamped in a top portion (21) of said femur (11), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said femoral head (12) is a distinct and removable component with respect to said pin means (18) and ~~that~~ said pin means (18) are provided with, or are associated with, coupling means (15, 115) able to be inserted into a mating seating (14) of said femoral head (12) in order to obtain a removable constraint between said femoral head (12) and said pin means (18).

2. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said coupling means comprise a flange-type insert (15, 115).

3. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said flange-type insert (15, 115) is connected to said pin means (18) and is able to be coupled and inserted in said mating seating (14).

4. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 2 or 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said flange-type insert (15) comprises a first portion (15b) able to be coupled by means of a first coupling in said mating seating (14) made in said femoral head (12).

5. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said first coupling is of the conical type.

6. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 4 ~~or 5~~, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein said first portion ~~(15b)~~ is hollow inside and defines a relative seating to at least partially surround said top portion ~~(21)~~ and to attach thereto.

7. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~hereinbefore~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said coupling means ~~(15, 115)~~ are removable with respect to said pin means ~~(18)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in ~~claims~~ claim 2 ~~and 7~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said flange-type insert ~~(15)~~ comprises a second portion ~~(15a)~~, in which a seating ~~(17)~~ is made, able to allow a second coupling of said flange-type insert ~~(15)~~ with an upper end ~~(22a)~~ of said pin means ~~(18)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 7 ~~or 8~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said second coupling is of the conical type.

10. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 8 ~~or 9~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in the upper zone of said second portion ~~(15a)~~ there is a housing seating ~~(25)~~ for an

attachment screw (26) able to clamp said flange-type insert (15) in an assembled condition with said pin means (18).

11. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said flange-type insert (115) is able to be rested on said top portion (21).

12. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said flange-type insert (115) is in the shape of a flat disc, having in its central portion a seating (117) for the coupling and the attachment of an upper end (22a) of said pin means (18).

13. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in ~~any claim from 2 to 12~~ inclusive, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said flange-type insert (15, 115) is coupled eccentrically with said femoral head (12).

14. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in ~~claims~~ claim 5 and 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the axis of the cone of said first coupling is coaxial with respect to the axis of the cone of said second conical coupling.

15. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in ~~claims~~ claim 5 and 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the axis of the cone of said first coupling is angled with respect to the axis of the cone of said second conical coupling.

16. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in ~~claims claim~~ claim 5 and 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the axis of the cone of said first coupling is offset and parallel with respect to the axis of the cone of said second conical coupling.

17. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in ~~any claim from 2 to 16~~ inclusive, characterized in that wherein said flange-type insert ~~(15, 115)~~ is able to be cemented on said top portion ~~(21)~~.

18. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said coupling means ~~(15, 115)~~ are made in a single piece with said pin means ~~(18)~~.

19. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in ~~any claim 1~~ hereinbefore, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said femoral head ~~(12)~~ is made of a different anti-wear material with respect to said pin means ~~(18)~~, which are made of a material able to be easily integrated with a bone tissue.

20. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in ~~any claim from 2 to 19~~ inclusive, characterized in that wherein said pin means ~~(18)~~ and said flange-type insert ~~(15, 115)~~ are made of titanium or titanium alloy, whereas said femoral head ~~(12)~~ is made of a cobalt alloy, or other material with high mechanical resistance.

21. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~hereinbefore~~, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ said pin means (18) are substantially conical in shape, with a lesser section at a first end (22b) on the side where it is inserted in said top portion (21), and a greater section at a second end (22a) towards said coupling means (15, 115).

22. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in ~~any~~ claim ~~from 1 to 20~~ inclusive, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ said pin means (18) are substantially cylindrical in shape.

23. (Currently Amended) Method to implant a femoral prosthesis as in ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~one of the previous claims~~, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ in a first step a pin (18) is inserted from the top portion (21) of a femur (11) letting an upper end thereof (22a) emerge, then a flange-type insert (15, 115) is coupled and clamped to said upper end (22a) and finally a femoral head (12) is coupled and clamped to said flange-type insert (15, 115).

24. (New) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 9, wherein the axis of the cone of said first coupling is coaxial with respect to the axis of the cone of said second conical coupling.

25. (New) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 9, wherein the axis of the cone of said first coupling is angled with respect to the axis of the cone of said second conical coupling.

26. (New) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 9, wherein the axis of the cone of said first coupling is offset and parallel with respect to the axis of the cone of said second conical coupling.